



STINGER SPORTS

CONCORDIA STINGERS HOCKEY

1982/83

OUTLOOK

GENERAL

The Stingers have won the Quebec Championship every year since its inception in 1975. They have been perennially ranked amongst the top three teams in Canadian College hockey, but they have not been able to capture that one elusive goal, a National title. Last season, with a large number of third year players, the Stingers came within an eyelash of reaching the final game, losing in over-time in the semi-finals to the Saskatchewan Huskies and defeating the # 1 ranked Regina Cougars. This year hopes are high that the Stingers, with the aid of a strong nucleus of lettermen and the new and stronger competitive Quebec League, will add a National final appearance and perhaps a National title to their list of accomplishments.

LOSSES

The Stingers have lost five letterman from their 1981 starting roster, including three starting defensemen, John Giftopoulos, sidelined this year because of academic difficulties, Greg MacDonald who has decided not to return to school; and Mike Elwood who graduated. The biggest losses up front will be Dave Clement, the 6'3 winger who impressed everyone last season with his work along the boards and Rick Pardo, the hardnosed, two-way winger who was instrumental in the Stingers playoff success.

RETURNEES

Most of Concordia's top players have returned, including M.V.P. defenseman Mike Walker; leading scorer Roman Dziatkowicz; playoff star centre John Sliskovic; and the All-Star goaltending duo of Dan Burrows and Stephan Héon. Also, right winger Brian Taylor has returned for graduate study along with left wing Kelly Kavic who attended the Washington Capitals training camp. Actually four Stingers attended Pro-Training Camps this year, goaltenders Dan Burrows and Stephan Héon went to Montreal and Winnipeg Camps respectively, Kavic to Washington and Bishop's transfer Paul Bedard attended the Buffalo Sabres Training Camp. Also returning up front are centre Gilles Hebert; left winger Brad Hood, a former Toronto Marlboro; right wing Kevin Murphy and J.V. stars Bert Gow and Dave Stott.

NEWCOMERS

Top recruits include defensemen Marc Lalonde from the Cornwall Royals and Steve Letwin from Thunder Bay Juniors. Other impressive newcomers are three transfers from the defunct Bishop's University Gaiters, centre Paul Bedard, Bishop's leading scorer and Athlete of the Year, 6'2 high scoring winger, Bob Vigliotti, the only U.S. born player on the Stingers and Kevin McGovern, a good two-way winger. The Stingers also have 6'1 Claude L'Abbe from Granby Juniors and Mark Kosturik, North Bay Trappers leading scorer, fighting for forward spots.

PROSPECTS

The Stingers are poised to capture their 8th Q.U.A.A. title in a row. However, a weakened defense must be offset by continued outstanding goaltending by Burrows and Héon and increased offense production by a surplus of big, fast skating forwards. Post season success hinges on the development of the defense throughout the heavy schedule of conference and non-conference games.